## REMARKS

Claims 45-56 are presented for consideration, with Claims 45, 48 and 51-54 being independent.

The independent claims have been amended to further distinguish Applicant's invention from the cited art. In addition, Claims 55 and 56 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Support for the claim amendments and new claims can be found, for example, in Figure 31, and on page 45, line 20, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

Claims 45, 48 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Choudhury '074 in combination with DeBry '728. Claims 46 and 49 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Choudhury and DeBry, and further in view of Bauer '819. Claims 47 and 50 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Choudhury and DeBry and further in view of Takagi '853. Finally, Claims 52-54 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious over Choudhury in combination with Van Buren '816. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 45 of Applicant's invention relates to a method of controlling peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a directory server on the network. The method includes a first receiving step of receiving a print job issued from an information processing apparatus on the network together with a first access ticket issued from the directory server, with the directory server being separate from the information processing apparatus, a storing step of storing the print job received in the first receiving step to a storing medium, a first decrypting step of decrypting the first access ticket received together with the print job in the first receiving step, and a first control step of determining validity of the first access ticket received in the first receiving step based on the decrypting result of the first decrypting step and limiting

execution of the print job received in the first receiving step. Additional steps including a second receiving step of receiving a management command from an information processing apparatus on the network together with a second access ticket issued from the directory server, at timing independent of the first receiving step, with the directory server being separate from the information processing apparatus, a second decrypting step of decrypting the second access ticket received together with the management command in the second receiving step, and a second control step of determining validity of the second access ticket received in the second receiving step based on the decrypting result of the second decrypting step and limiting execution of the management command.

As amended, when the management command received in the second receiving step is one for deleting a specified print job stored in the storing medium, the second control step (a) obtains the decryption results of the first decrypting step for the first access ticket received together with the specified print job, (b) compares user information in the decryption results of the second decrypting step for the second access ticket received together with the management command for deleting the specified print job with user information in the obtained decryption results for the first access ticket, (c) limits execution of deleting the specified print job in the storing medium if the comparison indicates that user information in the decryption result for the second access ticket does not correspond to the user information in the decryption results for the first access ticket, and (d) enables execution of deleting the specified print job in the storing medium if the comparison indicates that the user information in the decryption results for the second ticket corresponds to the user information in the decryption results for the first access ticket.

Claims 48 and 51 relate to a peripheral equipment apparatus and a computer readable storage medium, respectively, and have been amended along the same lines as Claim 45.

In Claim 52 of Applicant's invention, a method controls peripheral equipment connected to a network and managed by a director server on the network. The method includes a first receiving step of receiving a print job issued from an information processing apparatus on the network together with an access ticket issued from the directory server, with the directory server being separate from the information processing apparatus, a storing step of storing the print job received in the first receiving step to a storing medium, a first decrypting step of decrypting the access ticket received together with the print job in the first receiving step, and a first control step of determining validity of the access ticket received in the first receiving step based on the decrypting result of the first decrypting step and limiting execution of the print job received in the first receiving step. In addition, an obtaining step obtains from the director server, access information corresponding to a specified user, an inputting step inputs a management command from an operation panel of the peripheral equipment, and a second control step determines validity of the access information obtained in the obtaining step and limits execution of the management command.

As amended, Claim 52 recites that when the management command inputted in the inputting step is one for deleting a specified print job stored in the storing medium, the second control step (a) obtains the decryption results of the first decrypting step for the first access ticket received together with the specified print job, (b) compares user information in the access information with the user information in the obtained decryption results for the first access ticket, (c) limits execution of deleting the specified print job in the storing medium if the comparison

indicates that the user information in the access information does not correspond to the user information in the decryption results for the first access ticket, and (d) enables execution of deleting the specified print job in the storing medium if the comparison indicates that the user information in the access information corresponds to the user information in the decryption results for the first access ticket.

Claims 53 and 54 are directed to a peripheral equipment apparatus and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, and correspond to Claim 52.

In accordance with Applicant's claimed invention, a high performance and secure operation for deleting a print job can be provided.

The primary citation to Choudhury relates to cryptographic techniques for sending encrypted information between a document server 103 and a display agent 111 and/or a printing agent 113 (see Figure 2). The Office Action acknowledges that Choudhury does not provide a second receiving step (or unit), a second encrypting step (or unit), and a second control step (or unit).

The secondary citation to DeBry was cited to compensate for the deficiencies in Choudhury. DeBry relates to a system for controlling information between a user (client) 20, a document source 10, and a print server 30 (see Figure 1). DeBry is also said to teach that where a management command received in the second receiving step is one for deleting a specified print job stored in the storing medium, a second control step compares user information in a decryption result of the second decrypting step with user information in the decryption result of the first decrypting step and limits execution of deleting a specified print job in the storing medium if the user information in the decryption results of the second decrypting step does not

correspond to the user information in the decryption results of the first decrypting step, and enables execution of deleting the specified print job if the user information in the decryption results of the second decrypting step corresponds to the user information in the first decryption results of the first decrypting step.

Without conceding to the propriety of combining Choudhury and DeBry in the manner proposed in the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that such a combination still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's invention as set forth in Claims 45, 48 and 51. For example, the proposed combination of art does not teach or suggest, among other features, deleting a specific print job based on a comparison of user information. In the system used in DeBry, an access control list (ACL) is used to control access to the printing system 30. In this system, an operator could delete jobs, but end users could only submit print jobs (see column 9, lines 28-34). Such a system should be distinguished from Applicant's claimed invention, in which the execution of deleting a specified print job is determined based upon a comparison between user information in the decryption results for the second access ticket received together with the management command for deleting the specified print job with the user information in the obtained decryption results for the first access ticket.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 45, 48 and 51 is respectfully requested.

The tertiary citation to Bauer is relied on for teaching decryption results. The tertiary citation to Takagi is cited for its teaching of a management command for displaying a job list. These citations fail, however, to compensate for the deficiencies in Choudhury and DeBry as discussed above. Accordingly, without conceding the propriety of combining the art in the

manner proposed in the Office Action, such combinations still fail to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of Claims 46, 47, 49 and 50 are respectfully requested.

With respect to Claims 52-54, the secondary citation to Van Buren was relied on for its teaching of an obtaining step, an inputting step, and a second control step. Van Buren is also said to teach that when a management command is inputted for deleting a specified print job stored in the storing medium, the second control step compares user information in the access information with user information in the decryption result and limits execution of deleting a specific print job in the storing medium if the user information in the access information does not correspond to the user information in the decryption results of the first decrypting step and enables execution of deleting the specified print job in the storing medium if the user information in the access information corresponds to the user information in the decryption results of the first decrypting step.

In Van Buren's system of network printing, a first type or a second type of data files are sent to a printing apparatus, and the second type are stored in a memory and not printed until an operator explicitly so requests (see column 6, lines 6-13). When an operator wants to have specific data printed, the operator gives the command via an apparatus operator control panel 160. After that data file has been printed, it remains stored in the storage unit until it is removed by a user himself or a manager of the apparatus (see column 6, lines 56 through column 7, line 8). It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Van Buren's system does not limit or enable execution of deleting a specified print job based on a user information comparison in the manner set forth in Claims 52-54.

Accordingly, the proposed combination of Choudhury and van Buren, even if proper, still fails to teach or suggest Applicant's claimed invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 52-54 is therefore respectfully requested.

Thus, it is submitted that Applicant's invention as set forth in independent Claims 45, 48 and 51-54 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 46, 47, 49, 50, 55 and 56 set forth additional features of Applicant's invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Due consideration and prompt passage to issue are respectfully requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Scott D. Malpede/

Scott D. Malpede
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 32,533

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

SDM\rnm

FCHS_WS 4924024v1